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EXAMINER

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/622,113

Applicant(s)

POHJOLA ET AL.

Examiner

Li Liu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 November 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1, 3-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10 and 13-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al (Kim et al: "A Low-Cost WDM Source with ASE Injected Fabry-Perot Semiconductor Laser", IEEE Photonics Technology Letters, Vol. 12, No. 8, August 2000, page 1067-1069) in view of Okano et al (US 6,449,074) and Obermann et al (Obermann et al: "Performance Analysis of Wavelength Converts Based on Cross-Gain Modulation in Semiconductor-Optical Amplifiers", Journal of Lightwave Technology, Vol. 16, No. 1, January 1998, pages 78-85).

1). With regard to claim 1, Kim et al disclose an optical data transmission system (e.g., Figures 1 and 5), comprising

- a hub (the Center Office in Figure 5);
- a kerb location (the Remote Node in Figure 5);
- a converter (the F-P SLD in Figure 5);

an optical router (the AWG in Figure 5); and
a plurality of optical network units (ONUs in Figure 5),
wherein the optical network units are configured to transmit respective data signals to the kerb location (Figure 5, ONUs transmit data to Remote node),
wherein the optical router (the AWG in Figure 5) being configured to route wavelength channels having predefined wavelength ranges assigned to respective optical network units (the AWG slices the ASE spectral or the AWG select one lasing mode of the F-P SLD; the wavelength of upstream data is locked to the injected ASE wavelength) for transmission to the hub (the Center Office in Figure 5),
wherein the converter is configured to convert the data signals into the wavelength channels (Figures 1 and 5, page 1067-1069, III DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY).

But, in Figure 5, the wavelength converter F-P SLD is located in the ONU, not in kerb side with the transponder; and the data signals are the electrical signals. Kim et al does not expressly disclose the conversion being performed without any intermediate conversion to or from an electrical signal, and wherein the data signals comprise optical signals.

However, where to put the converter is just a design choice; and to use optical signal to pump another gain medium for wavelength conversion is well known and widely used in the art. Okano et al disclose an optical data transmission system, comprising

a hub (Terminal Station 4 in Figure 1; a hub is just a common connection point for devices in a network, and it enables signals to go from one device or segment to another, or forwards the packet to the correct port. The Terminal Station 4 in Figure 1 does receive the optical signals from optical senders 8 via fiber 6 and forwards the signals to the correct port optical receivers 20, therefore, it is viewed that the Terminal Station is a hub according to the general definition of the hub.);

a kerb location (where the Transponder 10 is located, Figure 1);

a converter (Wavelength Converter 12 in Figure 1);

an optical router (Optical Multiplexer 14 in Figure 1); and

a plurality of optical network units (Optical Signal Sender 8 in Figure 1),

wherein the optical network units are configured to transmit respective data signals to the kerb location (Optical Senders 8 output original optical signals having arbitrary wavelengths to the Transponder 12, in Figure 1),

wherein the optical router (the Transponder 10) is configure to route wavelength channels having predefined wavelength ranges assigned to respective optical network units for transmission to the hub (column 4, line 8-18, wavelength converters 12 in the transponder 10 converts the optical signals having arbitrary wavelengths from the optical senders 8 into optical signals having predetermined wavelengths, and then the optical multiplexer 14 in the transponder for wavelength division multiplexing the optical signals from the wavelength converters 12 to generate WDM signal light. The WDM signal light from the optical multiplexer 14 is output to the optical fiber transmission line 6; and then the signals are transmitted to the terminal station 4. That is, the transponder

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route wavelength channels having predefined wavelength ranges assigned to respective optical network units for transmission to the hub), and

the converter (Wavelength Converter 12 in Figure 1) is configured to convert the data signals into the wavelength channels (column 4, line 9-13, Figure 1, wavelength converters 12 converts the optical signals having arbitrary wavelengths from the optical senders 8 into optical signals having predetermined wavelengths λ_1 to λ_n , respectively),

wherein the data signals are optical signals (the data signal output from the Optical Sender is the original optical data signal, column 4 line 5-6).

Okano et al put the converter in the transponder, and the data signals are optical signal.

But, Okano et al does not expressly discloses the conversion being performed without any intermediate conversion to or from an electrical signal.

However, the wavelength converter performed without any O/E or E/O is well known and has been widely used in the art. Obermann et al discloses such an all-optical wavelength converter (Figure 1). Obermann et al teaches that an intensity modulated input signal with the average power P_{10} at wavelength λ_1 is used to modulate the carrier density and consequently also the gain of the SOA. Thus, the data is copied onto a second input wave, a continuous wave (CW) beam with the power P_{20} which is placed at the desired output wavelength λ_2 . The waves can be injected either co- or counterpropagating.

So, Kim et al teaches the hub, router, converter, ONUs; and Okano et al further teaches the converter can be put in the router location for converting the optical signal

having arbitrary wavelengths from the optical senders into optical signals having predetermined wavelengths, and the data signals are optical signals; and then Obermann et al teaches an all-optical wavelength converters.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Okano's system and Obermann's all-optical converter to the system of Kim et al so that a cost-effective WDM PON can be obtained and the data management and signal routing can be made easier.

2). With regard to claim 3, Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claim 1 above. And Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al further disclose wherein the data signals are used as pump signals to generate the wavelength channels (Okano et al: column 4, line 4-16, the original data signals pump the converter, and the converter generate the wavelength channels having predetermined wavelengths).

3). With regard to claim 4, Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claim 1 above. And Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al further disclose the original data signals have arbitrary wavelengths. But Okano et al does not expressly state that the data signals are within a wavelength range which does not include the wavelength or wavelengths of the wavelength channels.

However, since Okano et al disclose that the original data signals have **arbitrary** wavelengths (column 4, line 4-16), and the converter converts **arbitrary** wavelengths into the wavelength channels having **predetermined** wavelengths, it is obvious that the

arbitrary wavelengths can be different from the wavelengths of the wavelength channels (predetermined wavelengths).

4). With regard to claim 5, Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claim 1 above. And Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al further disclose the wavelength channels are generated by a plurality of optically pumped sources (Kim et al: the F-D SLD; or Okano et al: column 4, line 9-16, the original data signals pump the converter, and the optically pumped sources in the converter generate the wavelength channels).

5). With regard to claim 6, Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1 and 5 above. And Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al further disclose the optically pumped sources generate light having different wavelengths in order to define the wavelength channels having predefined distinct wavelength ranges (Kim et al: the wavelengths of F-P SLD laser is determined by the center office; or Okano et al: column 4, line 9-13, the optically pumped sources within the wavelength converters convert the optical signals having arbitrary wavelengths from the optical senders into optical signals having predetermined wavelengths λ_1 to λ_n , respectively).

6). With regard to claim 8, Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claim 1 above. And Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al further disclose the optical network units (Okano et al: Optical Senders 8 in Figure 1) output the original data signals have **arbitrary wavelengths**. But

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Okano et al does not expressly state that the respective ones of the ONUs (optical senders) are sufficiently similar that they are interchangeable.

However, since optical senders output the original data signals have arbitrary wavelengths, it is obvious that they can be made sufficiently similar and interchangeable (the "sufficiently similar" is the subset of the "arbitrary").

7). With regard to claim 9, Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1 and 5 above. And Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al further discloses wherein the optically pumped sources are injection locked lasers (Figures 1 and 5 of Kim et al, the F-P lasers are injection locked lasers).

8). With regard to claim 10, Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1, 5 and 9 above. And Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al further discloses the injection wavelength is selected by a WDM and/or a AWG (Figures 1 and 5 of Kim et al, the AWG is used to select the injection wavelength).

9). With regard to claim 13, Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claim 1 above. But Okano et al does not expressly states wherein the pumping light is at a wavelength different to the wavelength of light which is used to carry data traffic in upstream and downstream directions.

However, since Okano et al disclose that the original data signals have **arbitrary** wavelengths (column 4, line 4-16), and the converter converts **arbitrary** wavelengths

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into the wavelength channels having **predetermined** wavelengths, it is obvious that the **arbitrary** wavelengths can be different from the wavelengths of the wavelength channels (predetermined wavelengths). In Figures 1 and 5 of Kim et al and Figure 1 of Okano et al, an upstream signal transmission is shown. However, the bi-directional WDM system has been widely used in the passive optical network. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the bi-directional data transmission as widely used in the art to the system of Kim et al and Okano et al and make the wavelength of the original optical signal different from the wavelengths of both upstream and downstream directions, so that the system cost can be reduced by the bi-directional transmission, and system management can be made easy by using different wavelengths for the original data signal and the upstream and downstream signals.

10). With regard to claim 14, Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claim 1 above. And Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al further disclose wherein the optical router is a WDM (Kim et al: the AWG in Figures 1 and 5; or Okano et al: Optical Multiplexer 14 in Figure 1, column 4, line 15-17).

11). With regard to claim 15, Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claim 1 above. And Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al further wherein the optical router is an arrayed waveguide grating (Kim et al: the AWG in Figures 1 and 5).

12). With regard to claim 16, Kim et al, disclose a method of transmitting data (e.g., Figures 1 and 5), the method comprising:

transmitting, with an the optical network unit, respective data signals to a kerb location in an optical data transmission system (Figure 5, ONUs transmit data to Remote node),

routing wavelength channels having predefined wavelength ranges assigned to respective optical network units (the AWG slices the ASE spectral or the AWG select one lasing mode of the F-P SLD; the wavelength of upstream data is locked to the injected ASE wavelength) for transmission to the hub (the Center Office in Figure 5) with an optical router (the AWG in Figures 1 and 5), and

converting the data signals into the wavelength channels with a converter (the F-P SLD converts the data signals into the wavelength channels, Figures 1 and 5, page 1067-1069, III DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY).

But, in Figure 5, the wavelength converter F-P SLD is located in the ONU, not in kerb side with the transponder; and the data signals are the electrical signals. Kim et al does not expressly disclose the conversion being performed without any intermediate conversion to or from an electrical signal, and wherein the data signals comprise optical signals.

However, where to put the converter is just a design choice; and to use optical signal to pump another gain medium for wavelength conversion is well known and widely used in the art. Okano et al disclose a method of transmitting data, comprising

transmitting with an optical network units (Optical Senders 8 in Figure 1), respective data signal to the kerb location in an optical data transmission system (where the Transponder is located, column 4, line 4-8, Optical Senders 8 output original optical signals having arbitrary wavelengths to the transponder 12, in Figure 1); and

routing wavelength channels having predefined wavelength ranges assigned to respective optical network units for transmission to a hub with an optical router (column 4, line 8-18, wavelength converters 12 in the transponder 10 converts the optical signals having arbitrary wavelengths from the optical senders 8 into optical signals having predetermined wavelengths, and then the optical multiplexer 14 in the transponder for wavelength division multiplexing the optical signals from the wavelength converters 12 to generate WDM signal light. The WDM signal light from the optical multiplexer 14 is output to the optical fiber transmission line 6; and then the signals are transmitted to the terminal station 4. That is, the transponder route wavelength channels having predefined wavelength ranges assigned to respective optical network units for transmission to the hub); and,

the converter (Wavelength Converter 12 in Figure 1) converting the data signals into the wavelength channels with a converter, wherein the data signals are optical signals (column 4, line 9-13, Figure 1, wavelength converters 12 converts the optical signals having arbitrary wavelengths from the optical senders 8 into optical signals having predetermined wavelengths λ_1 to λ_n , respectively).

Okano et al put the converter in the transponder, and the data signals are optical signal.

But, Okano et al does not expressly disclose the conversion being performed without any intermediate conversion to or from an electrical signal.

However, the wavelength converter performed without any O/E or E/O is well known and has been widely used in the art. Obermann et al discloses such an all-optical wavelength converter (Figure 1). Obermann et al teaches that an intensity modulated input signal with the average power P_{10} at wavelength λ_1 is used to modulate the carrier density and consequently also the gain of the SOA. Thus, the data is copied onto a second input wave, a continuous wave (CW) beam with the power P_{20} which is placed at the desired output wavelength λ_2 . The waves can be injected either co- or counterpropagating.

So, Kim et al teaches the hub, kerb, converter, ONUs; and Okano et al further teaches the converter can be put in the kerb location for converting the optical signal having arbitrary wavelengths from the optical senders into optical signals having predetermined wavelengths, and the data signals are optical signals; and then Obermann et al teaches an all-optical wavelength converters.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Okano's method and Obermann's all-optical converter to the system and method of Kim et al so that a cost-effective WDM PON can be obtained and the data management and signal routing can be made easier.

13). With regard to claim 17, Kim et al, disclose an optical router for an optical data transmission system (e.g., Figures 1 and 5), the optical data transmission system comprising

a hub (the Center Office in Figure 5);
a kerb location (the Remote Node in Figure 5), and
a plurality of optical network units (ONUs in Figure 5), the optical network units being configured to transmit respective data signals to the kerb location (Figure 5, ONUs transmit data to Remote node),

the optical router (the AWG in Figure 5) being configured to route wavelength channels having predefined wavelength ranges assigned to respective optical network units (the AWG slices the ASE spectral or the AWG select one lasing mode of the F-P SLD; the wavelength of upstream data is locked to the injected ASE wavelength) for transmission to the hub (the Center Office in Figure 5),

wherein the converter being configure to convert the data signals into the wavelength channels (Figures 1 and 5, page 1067-1069, III DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY).

But, in Figure 5, the wavelength converter F-P SLD is located in the ONU, not in kerb side with the transponder; and the data signals are the electrical signals. Kim et al does not expressly disclose the conversion being performed without any intermediate conversion to or from an electrical signal, and wherein the data signals comprise optical signals.

However, where to put the converter is just a design choice; and to use optical signal to pump another gain medium for wavelength conversion is well known and widely used in the art. Okano et al disclose an optical data transmission system, comprising

a hub (Terminal Station 4 in Figure 1; a hub is just a common connection point for devices in a network, and it enables signals to go from one device or segment to another, or forwards the packet to the correct port. The Terminal Station 4 in Figure 1 does receive the optical signals from optical senders 8 via fiber 6 and forwards the signals to the correct port optical receivers 20, therefore, it is viewed that the Terminal Station is a hub according to the general definition of the hub.);

a kerb location (where the Transponder 10 is located, Figure 1);

a converter (Wavelength Converter 12 in Figure 1);

an optical router (Optical Multiplexer 14 in Figure 1); and

a plurality of optical network units (Optical Signal Sender 8 in Figure 1),

wherein the optical network units are configured to transmit respective data signals to the kerb location (Optical Senders 8 output original optical signals having arbitrary wavelengths to the Transponder 12, in Figure 1),

wherein the optical router (the Transponder 10) is configure to route wavelength channels having predefined wavelength ranges assigned to respective optical network units for transmission to the hub (column 4, line 8-18, wavelength converters 12 in the transponder 10 converts the optical signals having arbitrary wavelengths from the optical senders 8 into optical signals having predetermined wavelengths, and then the optical multiplexer 14 in the transponder for wavelength division multiplexing the optical signals from the wavelength converters 12 to generate WDM signal light. The WDM signal light from the optical multiplexer 14 is output to the optical fiber transmission line 6; and then the signals are transmitted to the terminal station 4. That is, the transponder

route wavelength channels having predefined wavelength ranges assigned to respective optical network units for transmission to the hub), and

the converter (Wavelength Converter 12 in Figure 1) is configured to convert the data signals into the wavelength channels (column 4, line 9-13, Figure 1, wavelength converters 12 converts the optical signals having arbitrary wavelengths from the optical senders 8 into optical signals having predetermined wavelengths λ_1 to λ_n , respectively),

wherein the data signals are optical signals (the data signal output from the Optical Sender is the original optical data signal, column 4 line 5-6).

Okano et al put the converter in the transponder, and the data signals are optical signal.

But, Okano et al does not expressly discloses the conversion being performed without any intermediate conversion to or from an electrical signal.

However, the wavelength converter performed without any O/E or E/O is well known and has been widely used in the art. Obermann et al discloses such an all-optical wavelength converter (Figure 1). Obermann et al teaches that an intensity modulated input signal with the average power P_{10} at wavelength λ_1 is used to modulate the carrier density and consequently also the gain of the SOA. Thus, the data is copied onto a second input wave, a continuous wave (CW) beam with the power P_{20} which is placed at the desired output wavelength λ_2 . The waves can be injected either co- or counterpropagating.

So, Kim et al teaches the hub, router, converter, ONUs; and Okano et al further teaches the converter can be put in the router location for converting the optical signal

having arbitrary wavelengths from the optical senders into optical signals having predetermined wavelengths, and the data signals are optical signals; and then Obermann et al teaches an all-optical wavelength converters.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Okano's system and Obermann's all-optical converter to the system of Kim et al so that a cost-effective WDM PON can be obtained and the data management and signal routing can be made easier.

14). With regard to claim 18, Kim et al, disclose a converter for an optical data transmission system (e.g., Figures 1 and 5) comprising

- a hub (the Center Office in Figure 5);

- a kerb location (the Remote Node in Figure 5),

- an optical router (the AWG in Figure 5); and

- a plurality of optical network units (ONUs in Figure 5), the optical network units being configured to transmit respective data signals to the kerb location (Figure 5, ONUs transmit data to Remote node),

the converter being configure to convert the data signals into the wavelength channels having predetermined wavelength ranges assigned to respective optical network units (the wavelength of upstream data is locked to the injected ASE wavelength, Figures 1 and 5, page 1067-1069, III DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY).

the optical router (the AWG in Figure 5) being configured to route the wavelength channels (the AWG slices the ASE spectral or the AWG select one lasing mode of the

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F-P SLD; the wavelength of upstream data is locked to the injected ASE wavelength) for transmission to the hub (the Center Office in Figure 5).

But, in Figure 5, the wavelength converter F-P SLD is located in the ONU, not in kerb side with the transponder; and the data signals are the electrical signals. Kim et al does not expressly disclose the conversion being performed without any intermediate conversion to or from an electrical signal, and wherein the data signals comprise optical signals.

However, where to put the converter is just a design choice; and to use optical signal to pump another gain medium for wavelength conversion is well known and widely used in the art. Okano et al disclose an optical data transmission system, comprising

a hub (Terminal Station 4 in Figure 1; a hub is just a common connection point for devices in a network, and it enables signals to go from one device or segment to another, or forwards the packet to the correct port. The Terminal Station 4 in Figure 1 does receive the optical signals from optical senders 8 via fiber 6 and forwards the signals to the correct port optical receivers 20, therefore, it is viewed that the Terminal Station is a hub according to the general definition of the hub.);

a kerb location (where the Transponder 10 is located, Figure 1);

a converter (Wavelength Converter 12 in Figure 1);

an optical router (Optical Multiplexer 14 in Figure 11); and

a plurality of optical network units (Optical Signal Sender 8 in Figure 1),

wherein the optical network units are configured to transmit respective data signals to the kerb location (Optical Senders 8 output original optical signals having arbitrary wavelengths to the Transponder 12, in Figure 1),

wherein the optical router (the Transponder 10) is configured to route wavelength channels having predefined wavelength ranges assigned to respective optical network units for transmission to the hub (column 4, line 8-18, wavelength converters 12 in the transponder 10 converts the optical signals having arbitrary wavelengths from the optical senders 8 into optical signals having predetermined wavelengths, and then the optical multiplexer 14 in the transponder for wavelength division multiplexing the optical signals from the wavelength converters 12 to generate WDM signal light. The WDM signal light from the optical multiplexer 14 is output to the optical fiber transmission line 6; and then the signals are transmitted to the terminal station 4. That is, the transponder route wavelength channels having predefined wavelength ranges assigned to respective optical network units for transmission to the hub), and

the converter (Wavelength Converter 12 in Figure 1) is configured to convert the data signals into the wavelength channels (column 4, line 9-13, Figure 1, wavelength converters 12 converts the optical signals having arbitrary wavelengths from the optical senders 8 into optical signals having predetermined wavelengths λ_1 to λ_n , respectively),

wherein the data signals are optical signals (the data signal output from the Optical Sender is the original optical data signal, column 4 line 5-6).

Okano et al put the converter in the transponder, and the data signals are optical signal.

But, Okano et al does not expressly disclose the conversion being performed without any intermediate conversion to or from an electrical signal.

However, the wavelength converter performed without any O/E or E/O is well known and has been widely used in the art. Obermann et al discloses such an all-optical wavelength converter (Figure 1). Obermann et al teaches that an intensity modulated input signal with the average power P_{10} at wavelength λ_1 is used to modulate the carrier density and consequently also the gain of the SOA. Thus, the data is copied onto a second input wave, a continuous wave (CW) beam with the power P_{20} which is placed at the desired output wavelength λ_2 . The waves can be injected either co- or counterpropagating.

So, Kim et al teaches the hub, kerb, converter, ONUs; and Okano et al further teaches the converter can be put in the kerb location for converting the optical signal having arbitrary wavelengths from the optical senders into optical signals having predetermined wavelengths, and the data signals are optical signals; and then Obermann et al teaches an all-optical wavelength converters.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Okano's system and Obermann's all-optical converter to the system of Kim et al so that a cost-effective WDM PON can be obtained and the data management and signal routing can be made easier.

15). With regard to claim 19, Kim et al, disclose an optical data transmission system (e.g., Figures 1 and 5), comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting, with an the optical network unit, respective data signals to a kerb location (Figure 5, ONUs transmit data to Remote node),

routing means (the AWG in Figure 5) for routing wavelength channels having predefined wavelength ranges assigned to respective optical network units (the AWG slices the ASE spectral or the AWG select one lasing mode of the F-P SLD; the wavelength of upstream data is locked to the injected ASE wavelength) for transmission to the hub (the Center Office in Figure 5) with an optical router (the AWG in Figures 1 and 5), and

converting means for converting the data signals into the wavelength channels with a converter (the F-P SLD converts the data signals into the wavelength channels, Figures 1 and 5, page 1067-1069, III DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY).

But, in Figure 5, the wavelength converter F-P SLD is located in the ONU, not in kerb side with the transponder; and the data signals are the electrical signals. Kim et al does not expressly disclose the conversion being performed without any intermediate conversion to or from an electrical signal.

However, where to put the converter is just a design choice; and to use optical signal to pump another gain medium and et wavelength conversion is well known and widely used in the art. Okano et al disclose an optical data transmission system, comprising

transmitting means (optical sender 8 in Figure 1) for transmitting, with an optical network units (Optical Senders 8 in Figure 1), respective data signal to the kerb location

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(where the Transponder is located, column 4, line 4-8, Optical Senders 8 output original optical signals having arbitrary wavelengths to the transponder 12, in Figure 1); and

routing means (the Multiplexer 14 in Figure 1) for routing wavelength channels having predefined wavelength ranges assigned to respective optical network units for transmission to a hub with an optical router (column 4, line 8-18, wavelength converters 12 in the transponder 10 converts the optical signals having arbitrary wavelengths from the optical senders 8 into optical signals having predetermined wavelengths, and then the optical multiplexer 14 in the transponder for wavelength division multiplexing the optical signals from the wavelength converters 12 to generate WDM signal light. The WDM signal light from the optical multiplexer 14 is output to the optical fiber transmission line 6; and then the signals are transmitted to the terminal station 4. That is, the transponder route wavelength channels having predefined wavelength ranges assigned to respective optical network units for transmission to the hub); and,

converting means (Wavelength Converter 12 in Figure 1) for converting the data signals into the wavelength channels with a converter, wherein the data signals are optical signals (column 4, line 9-13, Figure 1, wavelength converters 12 converts the optical signals having arbitrary wavelengths from the optical senders 8 into optical signals having predetermined wavelengths λ_1 to λ_n , respectively).

Okano et al put the converter in the transponder, and the data signals are optical signal.

But, Okano et al does not expressly discloses the conversion being performed without any intermediate conversion to or from an electrical signal.

However, the wavelength converter performed without any O/E or E/O is well known and has been widely used in the art. Obermann et al discloses such an all-optical wavelength converter (Figure 1). Obermann et al teaches that an intensity modulated input signal with the average power P_{10} at wavelength λ_1 is used to modulate the carrier density and consequently also the gain of the SOA. Thus, the data is copied onto a second input wave, a continuous wave (CW) beam with the power P_{20} which is placed at the desired output wavelength λ_2 . The waves can be injected either co- or counterpropagating.

So, Kim et al teaches the hub, kerb, converter, ONUs; and Okano et al further teaches the converter can be put in the kerb location for converting the optical signal having arbitrary wavelengths from the optical senders into optical signals having predetermined wavelengths, and the data signals are optical signals; and then Obermann et al teaches an all-optical wavelength converters.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Okano's method and Obermann's all-optical converter to the system and method of Kim et al so that a cost-effective WDM PON can be obtained and the data management and signal routing can be made easier.

4. Claims 7, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al as applied to claims 1, 5, 7, 9 and 10 above, and in further view of Song et al (US 2004/0067059).

1). With regard to claim 7, Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1 and 5 above.

And Kim et al discloses a laser cavity: a wavelength locked Fabry-Perot laser as a low cost WDM source for wavelength independent operation of the optical network units (Figure 1 and Figure 5). But Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al do not disclose that the optically pumped sources each comprise mirrors defining the cavity, and wavelength selective elements inside the cavity.

However, Song et al, in the same field of endeavor, teaches a partial mirror (220 in Figure 2) placed in the remote node (or kerb side), and the partial mirror (220 in Figures 2 and 4) is adapted to partially feed back the multiplexed signal of the second optical signals transmitted to the central office, thereby self-injection locking a plurality of second transmitters included in respective optical network units (Figure 2 and Figure 4). Since a Fabry-Perot laser is used, another reflective mirror must be present at the other end of the F-P laser 310. Song et al also discloses that a filter element (the WDM unit 210 in Figures 2 and 4) inside the cavity (that is between the partial mirror 220 and the end surface of the F-P laser 310).

Since the F-P laser cavity is a cost-effective component, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the laser cavity as taught by Song et al to the system of Kim et al and Okano et al so that a low cost WDM source for wavelength independent operation of the optical network units can be obtained.

2). With regard to claim 11, Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1 and 5 above. But, Kim et al and

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Okano et al and Obermann et al do not expressly disclose wherein the optically pumped sources are external cavity lasers.

However, Song et al discloses the optically pumped sources are external cavity lasers (Figures 2 and 4 of Song et al: the partial mirror 220 and the end surface of the F-P laser consist of the external cavity of the laser).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the laser cavity as taught by Song et al to the system of Kim et al and Okano et al so that a low cost WDM source for wavelength independent operation of the optical network units can be obtained.

3). With regard to claim 12, Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al discloses all of the subject matter as applied to claims 1, 5, 9 and 10 above. But, Kim et al and Okano et al and Obermann et al do not expressly disclose wherein the optical router is within the laser cavity of at least one optically pumped source.

However, Song et al discloses discloses an optical router which is within the laser cavity of at least one optically pumped source (Figures 2 and 4: the WDM 200 is within the laser cavity).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the laser cavity as taught by Song et al to the system of Kim et al and Okano et al so that a low cost WDM source for wavelength independent operation of the optical network units can be obtained.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lee et al (2001/0004290, US 2003/0142978; US 2005/0163503) discloses a Methods and apparatuses to provide a wavelength division-multiplexing passive optical network based on wavelength-locked wavelength-division-multiplexed light sources.

Shin et al (US 2004/0234265) discloses a wavelength division multiplexing optical transmitter using Fabry-Perot laser.

Deng et al (US 2002/0196491) disclose a passive optical network in which a plurality of wavelength division multiplexed optical signals are exchanged between terminals.

Dyke et al (US 6,870,836) disclose a system to enable the transfer of IP format data over a point-to-multipoint PON.

Darcie et al (US 5,694,234) disclose a PON that spectrally slices optical signals transmitted in both upstream and downstream directions utilizing WDM routing.

Chan et al (Chan et al: "Upstream traffic transmitter using injection-locked Fabry-Perot laser diode as modulator for WDM access networks", ELECTRONICS LETTERS, January 3, 2002, Vol. 38, No. 1, page 43-45).

Lee (Lee: "Passive Optical Networks for FTTx Applications", OFC 2005, March 2005, OWP3).

Morales et al (US 5,706,111) disclose an optical communication network in which a converter is used to convert the fixed wavelength from subscriber into another wavelength to be transmitted to CO.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Li Liu whose telephone number is (571)270-1084. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:00 am - 5:30 pm, alternating Fri off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ken Vanderpuye can be reached on (571)272-3078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Li Liu
July 1, 2007



KENNETH VANDERPUYE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER